



In satisfaction of the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, and in accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants wish to draw the attention of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office to the references cited on the accompanying form PTO/SB/08A. In accordance with 1273 Off. Gaz. Pat. Off. 1, 8/5/2003, no copies of U.S. patents and U.S. published applications are enclosed. Copies of all other references are enclosed.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(g), the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed to mean that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(a) exists.

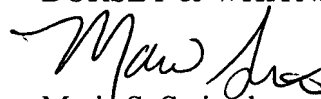
It is submitted that the Information Disclosure Statement is in compliance with 37 CFR 1.98 and MPEP § 609 and consideration of the foregoing plus the prompt return of a copy of the enclosed form PTO/SB/8A with the Examiner's initials in the left column in accordance with MPEP 609 are respectfully requested.

This information disclosure statement is being filed in compliance with 37 CFR 1.97(b) as being filed before the mailing date of the first office action on the merits and therefore no fee is required.

Should any questions or comments arise regarding the listing of the submitted publications and patents in which the Examiner feels a telephone conversation would be appropriate, he or she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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